

Washington State Judicial Branch

2026 Supplemental Budget

Purchasing Transcripts of Court Records

Agency: Office of Public Defense

Decision Package Code/Title: D2 – Purchasing Court Transcripts

Agency Recommendation Summary Text:

The Washington State Office of Public Defense (OPD) requests funding to implement Supreme Court [Order 25700-B-732](#), which increases the per-page cost for court transcripts used to prepare indigent appeals. Under Washington law, OPD provides the constitutional right to counsel for indigent appeals, including obtaining transcripts of trial court proceedings.

Fiscal Summary:

	FY 2026	FY 2027	Biennial	FY 2028	FY 2029	Biennial
Staffing						
FTEs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Operating Expenditures						
Fund 001-1	\$0	\$496,000	\$496,000	\$496,000	\$496,000	\$992,000
Total Expenditures						
	\$0	\$496,000	\$496,000	\$496,000	\$496,000	\$992,000

Package Description:

The Washington State Office of Public Defense requests \$496,000 to implement Supreme Court [Order 25700-B-732](#), which increases the per-page rate OPD pays for court transcripts used to prepare indigent appeals. Under Washington law, OPD provides the constitutional right to counsel for indigent appeals, including obtaining transcripts of trial court proceedings. The Court Order establishes a rate of \$4.80 per page, to be implemented upon legislative appropriation of adequate funds to the OPD budget. The current indigent page rate of \$3.65 dates to 2018 and is lower than indigent transcript rates in a number of other states and the federal courts.

OPD expects to be invoiced for approximately 440,000 transcript pages for indigent appeals in FY 2027. This projection is based on the actual average number of pages reimbursed for FY 2023 through FY 2025, and is consistent with the average number of pages when including pre-COVID years (FY 2018, FY 2019, and FY 2020).

Background

Washington law directs the Office of Public Defense (OPD) to provide state-funded attorney representation to indigent clients with a right to counsel at state expense before the Washington Court of Appeals and the Washington Supreme Court. These cases include criminal appeals as well as other appeals involving basic rights such as dependency proceedings, parental rights terminations, criminal contempt convictions, and involuntary civil commitments. [RCW 2.70.020](#)(1)(b).

Transcripts embody the official “verbatim report of proceedings” at trial and are a necessary component of the legal record upon which an appeal is based. OPD appellate attorneys must obtain transcripts of trial proceedings in order to prepare appeals for their indigent clients. Transcript size can vary widely, ranging from just a few pages to many thousands of pages. The most voluminous transcripts tend to reflect lengthy trials involving complex facts, numerous exhibits and witnesses, and serious criminal charges or termination of parental rights.

Under authority of the Washington Rules of Appellate Procedure (RAP), the Washington Supreme Court establishes by General Order the per-page rate that court reporters and transcriptionists may charge OPD for transcripts used to prepare indigent appeals. [RAP 15 04 00\(d\)\(1\)](#). Since 2018 OPD has paid \$3.65 per page. Court [Order 25700-B-732](#) increases the payment to \$4.80 per page, contingent on legislative appropriation of adequate funds to the OPD budget. As a matter of comparison, court reporters and transcriptionists can earn \$6 to \$6.50 per page for transcripts ordered by privately retained counsel, plus higher rates for expedited services.

In late Fall 2024 the Washington State Court Reporters Association petitioned OPD and the Supreme Court to adjust the per-page rate for indigent cases, initially requesting \$4.95 per page. The Chief Justice referred the request to the OPD [Advisory Committee](#) for initial review and recommendation. Following a presentation by the Court Reporters Association and member discussion at two regular meetings, the OPD Advisory Committee recommended the Court adopt a rate of \$4.80 per page for indigent transcripts. The Court issued its Order on April 7, with implementation contingent on legislative appropriation.

Fully describe and quantify expected impacts on state residents.

Funding this decision package will ensure that indigent appellants and their OPD-contracted lawyers can obtain timely, accurate trial transcripts, which are necessary to prepare an appeal. Article 1, Section 22 of the Washington Constitution guarantees that " ... the accused shall have the right to appear and defend in person, or by counsel ... *and the right to appeal in all cases* " (Emphasis added.)

Funding this decision package also will provide fair compensation for the small businesses that transcribe court proceedings for indigent appeals.

Explain what alternatives were explored by the agency and why this was the best option chosen.

OPD examined whether the agency could cover the increased transcript rate within existing resources and determined that approach is not feasible. New funding is necessary to implement the Court Order.

What are the consequences of not funding this request?

Not funding this request would fail to implement a Supreme Court Order.

In addition, not funding this request could contribute to delays in indigent appeals. OPD appellate attorneys report that the current below-market reimbursement rates are impacting their ability to obtain transcripts in a timely way.

Is this an expansion or alteration of a current program or service?

No. This decision package implements a Supreme Court Order to adjust a payment rate for an existing service.

Decision Package expenditure, FTE and revenue assumptions

	Number of Transcript Pages		
	Appellate	Appellate Dependency	Total
FY 2023	398,624	32,854	431,478
FY 2024	471,090	26,138	497,228
FY 2025	355,984	28,348	384,332
Average Number of Transcript Pages	408,566	29,113	437,679
Cost at \$3.65 per Page	\$1,491,000	\$106,000	\$1,597,000
Cost at \$4.80 per Page	\$1,961,000	\$140,000	\$2,101,000
Difference	\$470,000	\$34,000	\$504,000
Less Title IV-E at 23%	\$0	\$(8,000)	\$(8,000)
Total Request	\$470,000	\$26,000	\$496,000

Partial Federal Reimbursement under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act (Object S). OPD receives funding from Title IV-E of the federal Social Security Act through an interagency agreement with the state Department of Children, Youth, and Families. The funding provides partial reimbursement to states for qualifying expenditures on child welfare activities, including legal services for parents involved in dependency and termination cases as well as for pre-petition legal services.

The partial reimbursement is available for OPD’s work on appellate representation in dependency and termination cases.

The reimbursement rate varies based on the percentage of Title IV-E eligible children in Washington. The current working assumption for Title IV-E reimbursement is 23.00% of all OPD costs associated with the dependency and termination cases and any related appeals. This estimate is based on the last billing of FY 2025.

How does the package relate to the Judicial Branch principal policy objectives?

Fair and Effective Administration of Justice

This decision package supports the right to appeal as guaranteed by Article 1 Section 22 of the Washington Constitution. This decision package helps OPD-contracted appellate attorneys obtain accurate transcripts of trial proceedings so that they can timely file appeals for indigent clients who have a right to effective legal representation in the Washington Court of Appeals and the Washington Supreme Court.

Access to Necessary Representation

This decision package supports access to necessary representation by ensuring that OPD-contracted appellate attorneys can obtain the trial transcripts necessary to provide effective representation for indigent clients.

Are there impacts to other governmental entities?

Yes. If OPD attorneys are not able to obtain trial transcripts in a timely fashion, their appellate briefs may be delayed or they may miss court deadlines. Delayed filings can negatively impact work flow for the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court. Late filings can result in court sanctions against the attorney.

Stakeholder response:

At its September 18, 2025 meeting, the OPD Advisory Committee voted to endorse this decision package. Supporters of this decision package include members of the Washington State Court Reporters Associations as well as OPD-contracted appellate attorneys.

Are there legal or administrative mandates that require this package to be funded?

Pursuant to the Rules of Appellate Procedure, Supreme Court [Order 25700-B-732](#) adjusts the state's payment rate for trial transcripts used to prepare appeals for indigent persons. The Court Order becomes effective when the Legislature appropriates sufficient funding for implementation.

Does current law need to be changed to successfully implement this package?

No. Current law does not need to be changed to implement this decision package.

Are there impacts to state facilities?

No. This decision package does not impact state facilities.

Are there other supporting materials that strengthen the case for this request?

- Supreme Court [Order 25700-B-732](#) (Attachment A)
- [OPD Advisory Committee Transcription Rate Increase Letter 3.13.25.pdf](#) (Attachment B) This includes materials submitted by the Court Reporters Association.

Are there information technology impacts?

This decision Package has no IT impacts.

Agency Contacts:

Sophia Byrd McSherry

Deputy Director for Government Relations

sophia.byrdmcsherry@opd.wa.gov

360-878-0550

THE SUPREME COURT OF WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF THE SETTING
OF THE TRANSCRIPTION RATE
PURSUANT TO RAP 15.4(d)(1)

ORDER

NO. 25700-B-732

The Court on April 2, 2025, considered the recommendation by the Office of Public Defense (OPD) to increase the per page rate for preparation of verbatim report of proceedings for indigent review cases to be increased. The Court determined that a \$1.15 per page increase to \$4.80 per page, contingent on the Legislature appropriating funds for the increase.

Now, therefore, it is hereby

ORDERED:

1. That pursuant to RAP 15.4(d)(1), the billing rate for the preparation of the original and one copy of a verbatim report of proceedings for indigent review cases, where an appropriate order of indigency has been entered, is hereby increased to \$4.80 per page.

2. That the new per page rate of \$4.80 will be implemented by OPD upon the legislative appropriation of adequate funds to the OPD budget.

DATED at Olympia, Washington this 7th day of April, 2025.

For the court


CHIEF JUSTICE



**WASHINGTON STATE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC DEFENSE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Chair

Anne A. Lee
Supreme Court
Appointee

Members

Robert Flennaugh, II
Supreme Court
Appointee

Ann Christian
Supreme Court
Appointee

Rep. Travis Couture
House Republican
Caucus Appointee

Rep. Roger Goodman
House Democratic
Caucus Appointee

Sen. Nikki Torres
Senate Republican
Caucus Appointee

Sen. Jesse Salomon
Senate Democratic
Caucus Appointee

Jana Heyd
WA State Bar
Association Appointee

**Hon. Rich Melnick
(ret.)**
Court of Appeals
Appointee

S. Tye Menser
WA State Assoc. of
Counties Appointee

Sheila Gall
Assoc. of WA Cities
Appointee

Luis Moscoso
Office of the Governor
Appointee

James Chambers
Office of the Governor
Appointee

March 13, 2025

Honorable Chief Justice Debra Stephens
Washington Supreme Court
Temple of Justice
415 12th Ave SW
Olympia, WA 98501-641

Re: RAP 15.4(d)(1) Appellate Court Reporter/Transcriptionist Indigent Rate

Dear Chief Justice Stephens and the Justices of the Supreme Court:

The Washington State Office of Public Defense (OPD) submitted a request in October 2024 for an increase in the per-page rate for transcripts in indigent appeals provided in the Rules of Appellate Procedure 15.4(d)(1). The Supreme Court requested that OPD's Advisory Committee review the request and provide its recommendation on the increase. At its quarterly meeting on March 13, 2025, the OPD Advisory Committee voted unanimously in support of an increase in the per-page rate for transcripts in indigent appeals from \$3.65 to \$4.80.

The Advisory Committee reviewed OPD staff's recommendation and materials provided by the Washington Court Reporter's Association, its members, and letters from appellate attorneys. The Committee noted that the indigent transcript rate has not increased since 2018, even as many other costs have increased significantly. We also recognize that sub-market reimbursement rates may be having an impact on the availability of court reporters for indigent appeals. We recommend the increase to bring transcription rates in line with industry standards.

The State OPD will submit a supplemental budget request to the Legislature should the Court accept the recommendation and order an increase in the per-page rate for transcripts.

Best regards,

Anne Lee, Chair
Washington State Office of Public Defense Advisory Committee

Enclosures: Proposed Order for Indigent Transcript Rate Increase
Request for Indigent Transcript Rate Increase

Justice ♦ Service ♦ Equity ♦ Excellence

THE SUPREME COURT OF WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF THE SETTING
OF THE TRANSCRIPTION RATE
PURSUANT TO RAP 15.4(d)(1)

ORDER

NO. _____

The Court on _____, considered the recommendation by the Office of Public Defense (OPD) to increase the per page rate for preparation of verbatim report of proceedings for indigent review cases to be increased. The Court determined that a \$1.15 per page increase to \$4.80 per page, contingent on the Legislature appropriating funds for the increase.

Now, therefore, it is hereby

ORDERED:

1. That pursuant to RAP 15.4(d)(1), the billing rate for the preparation of the original and one copy of a verbatim report of proceedings for indigent review cases, where an appropriate order of indigency has been entered, is hereby increased to \$4.80 per page.

2. That the new per page rate of \$4.80 will be implemented by OPD upon the legislative appropriation of adequate funds to the OPD budget.

DATED at Olympia, Washington this ____ day of _____, 20XX.

For the Court

CHIEF JUSTICE

Reed Jackson Watkins, LLC
Court-Approved Transcription
800 Fifth Avenue, Suite 101-183
Seattle, Washington 98104
206.624.3005

March 3, 2025

Attn: Gideon S. Newmark
WA State Office of Public Defense
PO Box 40957
Olympia, WA 98504-0957

Re: Washington State Indigent Transcript Page Rate / Request for Rate Increase

Dear Mr. Newmark and other interested parties,

This letter is an amendment to the first letter written on behalf of all court reporters and transcribers court approved to provide verbatim reports of proceeding for appellate purposes. Together with the Washington State Court Reporters Association, we would respectfully request the legislature to approve and pass an Indigent Page Rate increase to **4.80/page** from the current rate of 3.65/ page, which was enacted in August of 2019. We are amending this request because comparing page rates between other states is not applicable, as each state has different margin and format requirements, thus affecting the number of pages produced. However, the Federal rates that apply to all states also require a uniform page format, which we all follow and which is also compatible with the Washington Administrative Code. We suggest that you use the Federal rate as a starting point to consider a page rate increase, but also consider the following:

1. The Federal Indigent page rate has seen significant increases in the last two years. **The current Federal rate is 4.40/page.**
2. Based on cost-of-living studies, Washington state is consistently ranked in the top ten most expensive states in the country and, therefore, should be a higher rate than the Federal rate, which is based on a national average.
3. The minimum wage in Washington is the highest in the country.
4. Using the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries yearly COLA increase table, the page rate would currently be **4.93/page if the rate of 3.65/page were increased year to year.**
5. The current rate of 3.65/page is well below the average transcript page rate for private appeals, which is 6.00 to 6.50/page.
6. Criminal Defense attorneys have had an increasingly hard time finding reporters and transcribers willing to prepare their verbatim reports due to the low page rate, which, in turn, negatively impacts the due process rights of criminal defendants.

Thank you again for your urgent consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,



Marjie Jackson, CET
Reed Jackson Watkins, LLC



**WASHINGTON STATE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC DEFENSE**

Larry Jefferson, Director

Email: opd@opd.wa.gov

(360) 586-3164
FAX (360) 586-8165

October 17, 2024

Honorable Chief Justice Steven C. González
Washington Supreme Court
243 Israel Rd. SE
Town Center East Building 3 First Floor
Tumwater, WA 98501-6415

Re: RAP 15.4(d)(1) Appellate Court Reporter/Transcriptionist Indigent Rate

Dear Chief Justice González and the Justices of the Supreme Court:

On behalf of the Washington State Office of Public Defense (OPD), I am writing with the urgent request that you approve an increase in the per-page rate for transcripts in indigent appeals, as provided in the Rules of Appellate Procedure 15.4(d)(1). The rate has not increased since 2018, even as living costs have increased dramatically.

OPD received the enclosed detailed request from the Washington Court Reporters Association and several highly regarded court reporters and transcriptionists. They are asking that the indigent rate be increased from \$3.65 per page to \$4.95, bringing it in line with industry standards for this vital work. The request is further supported by several top appellate firms who report first-hand that it is becoming more and more difficult to find transcriptionists at the current rate.

OPD further requests expedited consideration of this matter, to make it possible to seek legislative appropriation in the upcoming 2025-2027 biennial budget. The proposed rate increase will cost approximately \$904,589 for the next biennium. OPD believes that a competitive transcript rate will help avert increased delays in indigent appeals, thus advancing timely relief for indigent clients with meritorious claims as well as finality for victims in cases where relief is denied.

With gratitude,

Larry Jefferson
Director

Washington State Office of Public Defense

Enclosures: Proposed Order for Indigent Transcript Rate Increase
Request for Indigent Transcript Rate Increase

Justice ♦ Service ♦ Equity ♦ Excellence

Reed Jackson Watkins, LLC
Court-Approved Transcription
800 Fifth Avenue, Suite 101-183
Seattle, Washington 98104
206.624.3005

October 11, 2024

Attn: Gideon S. Newmark
WA State Office of Public Defense
PO Box 40957
Olympia, WA 98504-0957

Re: Washington State Indigent Transcript Page Rate / Request for Rate Increase

Dear Mr. Newmark and other interested parties,

I am writing this letter on behalf of all court reporters and transcribers court approved to provide verbatim reports of proceeding for appellate purposes. Together with the Washington State Court Reporters Association, we would respectfully request the legislature to approve and pass an Indigent Page Rate increase to 4.95/page from the current rate of 3.65/ page, which was enacted in August of 2019.

The reasons for our request are the following:

1. The Federal Indigent page rate has seen significant increases in the last two years. Starting in January of 2025, the rate will be 4.40/page for a 30 day turnaround.
2. Based on cost-of-living studies, Washington state is consistently ranked in the top ten most expensive states in the country. The Washington state minimum wage is the *highest in the county*. Our state indigent page rate should be a higher rate than the Federal rate, which is based on a national average.
3. Other states, including Utah and Florida have recently significantly increased their Indigent page rates.
4. Using the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries yearly COLA increase table, the page rate would currently be 4.93/page if the rate of 3.65/page were increased year to year.
5. The current rate of 3.65/page is well below the average transcript page rate for private appeals, which is 6.25 to 6.50/page.
6. Criminal Defense attorneys have had an increasingly hard time finding reporters and transcribers willing to prepare their verbatim reports due to the low page rate, which, in turn, negatively impacts the due process rights of criminal defendants.

Attached please find documentation supporting this urgent request.

Very truly yours,



Marjie Jackson, CET
Reed Jackson Watkins, LLC



WASHINGTON

COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

Gideon S. Newmark
WA State Office of Public Defense
PO Box 40957
Olympia WA 98504-0957

Dear Mr. Newmark,

I am writing on behalf of the Washington Court Reporters Association in strong support of the request to increase the indigent page rate for court reporters and transcribers in Washington State. The current rate of \$3.65 per page, established in 2019, is significantly below both the federal rate and that of many other states. With the federal rate rising to \$4.40 per page in 2025 and other states such as Utah, Florida, and Minnesota already making similar adjustments, Washington's current rate needs to be updated to reflect the realities of cost and quality in our field.

Washington is consistently ranked among the most expensive states in the nation. Given this high cost of living, our current indigent rate does not adequately compensate reporters for their expertise and dedication. An increase to \$4.95 per page would not only align us with industry standards but also help ensure that skilled professionals remain available to produce accurate and timely transcripts. Without this adjustment, we risk negatively impacting access to justice for those who rely on these services the most.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Gwen Brass, CA CSR 5784, WA CCR 1908
WCRA President



1511 Third Ave, Suite 610
Seattle, WA 98101
206-587-2711
www.washapp.org

November 26, 2024

Re: Court Reporters

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing regarding the Court Reporters Association's request to adjust the page rate for transcription of proceedings in indigent cases.

Our firm has specialized in the indigent appellate practice for over 30 years. Criminal defense attorneys have had an increasingly hard time finding reporters and transcribers willing to prepare their verbatim reports due to the low page rate, which, in turn, negatively impacts the due process rights of criminal defendants.

We believe that a rate increase would greatly help in increasing the field of available transcriptionists who can provide reliable and efficient work and would be willing to take on indigent defense transcription.

Our office supports this proposal.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory C. Link".

Gregory C. Link, Director
Attorney at Law - WSBA 25228

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Maria A. Riley".

Maria A Riley, Office Manager

cc: Marjie Jackson
Reed Jackson Watkins
jackson@rjwtranscripts.com



October 3, 2024

Gideon S. Newmark, Esq.
Washington State Office of Public Defense
P.O. Box 40957
Olympia, WA 98504

Re: Indigent Appeal Page Rates

Dear Office of Public Defense, Washington State Supreme Court Justices, Legislators, and/or other interested parties:

My name is Lisa Buell, and I am the owner of Buell Realtime Reporting, a locally owned litigation support firm that has proudly supported the Pacific Northwest legal community for over 27 years.

I am writing to you on behalf of all court reporters and transcribers across Washington State to formally request the legislature approve and pass an indigent page rate increase to \$4.95 per page. The current rate of \$3.65 per page, which was enacted in 2019, does not reflect the increased cost of living, labor, and the demands of our profession.

Washington State is consistently ranked as one of the most expensive states to live in, and the current rate of \$3.65 per page makes it increasingly difficult for professionals in our field to maintain the high standards of accuracy that the justice system relies on.

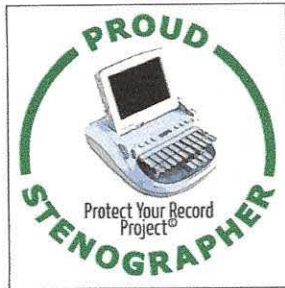
As a past president of the Washington Court Reporters Association, I can confirm that we have been working with Marjie Jackson in gathering the facts and data that she has included in her letter, and I support and join in her request to raise the Indigent page rate to \$4.95 per page.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Buell".

Lisa Buell



Jennifer Pollino, CCR #2221, RPR,
Official Reporter Skagit County Superior Court
205 W. Kincaid Street
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
jencpollino@gmail.com
360-416-1215

September 28, 2024

Gideon S. Newmark, Esq.
Washington State Office of Public Defense
P.O. Box 40957
Olympia, WA 98504

Re: Indigent Appeal Page Rates

Dear Office of Public Defense, Washington State Supreme Court Justices, Legislators, and/or other interested parties:

I am an official court reporter of 21 years in Skagit County Superior Court. Our caseloads have increased, which in turn results in many more trials, and most, if not all, of the defendants are indigent. Since I am on the record reporting in court almost every day, the only time to work on appeal transcripts is my off time at home and on the weekends.

With the cost of living increases, my court reporting expenses, and the caseload volume, it is time that our rates increase as well. I am requesting that the page rate be increased from \$3.65/page to \$4.95/page.

As the Past President of the Washington State Court Reporters Association, I can attest that we have been working with Marjie Jackson in gathering the facts and data that she has included in her letter, and I support and join in her request.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Pollino, WA CCR, RPR

WCRA Past President

Official Court Reporter Skagit County Superior Court



Tammey McMaster

Official Court Reporter, CCR No. 2751
930 Tacoma Avenue South, 334
Tacoma, Washington 98402
tammeymc@gmail.com

September 30, 2024

Gideon S. Newmark, Esq.
Washington State Office of Public Defense
PO Box 40957
Olympia, WA 98504

Re: Indigent Appeal Page Rates

Dear Mr. Newmark,

Please let this letter serve as notice of my support, along with that of Ms. Marjie Jackson and all interested reporters in our state, in our collective request for a page-rate increase.

I am currently an official in Pierce County Superior Court. Before arriving in Pierce County, I was an official in Spokane County for nearly 20 years. In that time, I have experienced increased caseloads, translating to an increase in appellate transcripts.

Due to increases in every aspect of our lives (living, expenses, volume) etc., page rates must also increase. I am requesting a new rate of \$4.95/page. Due to the numerous orders/deadlines it usually necessitates requests for extensions. I mention this because I believe the time and effort put into our pages merits this request. When compared, the hours, in combination with the current page rate, translate to minimal compensation.

Thank you so much for your consideration and attention to this request. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated by me and my colleagues.

Please let me know if I can be of assistance to aid in this request.

Sincerely,

Tammey McMaster

Official Court Reporter
Pierce County Super Court

Holly M. Draper, RPR, CCR
Washington CCR No. 1976
Spokane County Superior Court
1116 W. Broadway Avenue, Dept. 2
Spokane, WA 99260
(509) 477-4417
HDraper@Spokanecounty.org

September 27, 2024

TO: Gideon S. Newmark, Esq.
WA State Office of Public Defense
PO Box 40957
Olympia, WA 98504-0957

Re: Washington State Indigent Appeals/page rates

Dear Office of Public Defense, Washington State Supreme Court Justices, Legislators, and/or other interested parties:

I am an official court reporter in and for Spokane County Superior Court. I produce transcripts from indigent appeals routinely in my role and respectfully request that the page rate be increased from \$3.65/page to \$4.95/page. The rate increase would help to maintain a working relationship with scopists and proofreaders who assist me in producing timely transcripts while I am busy working in the courtroom.

As the current Vice President of the Washington State Court Reporters Association, I can attest that we have been working with Marjie Jackson in gathering the facts and data that she has included in her letter, and I support and join in her request.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Holly M. Draper, RPR
WA CR No. 1976



The Denny Building
2200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1250
Seattle, Washington 98121

Phone: (206) 623-2373
www.nwattorney.net

October 1, 2024

RE: *Indigent Transcription Pay Increase*

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing regarding the Court Reporters Association's request to adjust pay for work done transcribing for indigent cases. I have been working with indigent appeals for 30 plus years.

Although the process of finding a transcriber for indigent cases has never been easy, the process has gradually gotten worse over time. When we do find someone willing to take on our transcription work, they are usually very busy and need to request extensions to complete the work.

My hope in the success of this increase is that more transcribers would be interested in taking this indigent work reducing delays by spreading the burden more evenly.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Sloane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Sloane" clearly distinguishable.

John Sloane
Office Manager
Nielsen Koch and Grannis PLLC

Backlund & Mistry

Attorneys at Law

Jodi R. Backlund

Manek R. Mistry

October 11, 2024

Sent to Marjie Jackson

Reed Jackson Watkins

Via email

Re: *Court reporters*

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing regarding the Court Reporters Association's request to adjust pay for work done transcribing for indigent cases. I am an appellate attorney who only takes court-appointed cases. Over the last couple of years, it has become increasingly difficult for us to find qualified people to transcribe hearings on our cases. When we do find someone willing to work on our cases, they are usually very busy and delays are almost a foregone conclusion.

Anything that can be done to improve this situation for our clients would be appreciated, including a rate increase.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Backlund & Mistry



Jodi R. Backlund

Attorney at Law

LAW OFFICES OF LISE ELLNER, PLLC
P.O. BOX 2711
VASHON, WA 98070
Liseellnerlaw@comcast.net

September 30, 2024

Re: *Court reporters*

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing regarding the Court Reporters Association's request to adjust pay for work done transcribing indigent cases. I have practiced in the indigent appellate field for over 30 years. The current pool of experienced and qualified transcriptionist is shrinking and inadequate to meet the volume of cases we are being asked to handle.

The few individuals and firms that provide reliable and efficient work- are usually very busy and delays ensue.

To keep the indigent defense justice system working, to maintain the current professionals willing to take indigent work and to increase the field of available transcriptionists, a rate increase is essential. My firm, and my clients support this proposal.

Thank you. Respectfully,



Lise Ellner
Attorney at Law
WSBA 20955

Cc: Marjie Jackson
Reed Jackson Watkins
Marjie Jackson <jackson@rjwtranscripts.com>

Minimum Wage by State	Value	Rank
Alabama	\$7.25	1 st
Georgia	\$7.25	1 st
Idaho	\$7.25	1 st
Indiana	\$7.25	1 st
Iowa	\$7.25	1 st
Kansas	\$7.25	1 st
Kentucky	\$7.25	1 st
Louisiana	\$7.25	1 st
Mississippi	\$7.25	1 st
New Hampshire	\$7.25	1 st
North Carolina	\$7.25	1 st
North Dakota	\$7.25	1 st
Oklahoma	\$7.25	1 st
Pennsylvania	\$7.25	1 st
South Carolina	\$7.25	1 st
Tennessee	\$7.25	1 st
Texas	\$7.25	1 st
Utah	\$7.25	1 st
Wisconsin	\$7.25	1 st
Wyoming	\$7.25	1 st
West Virginia	\$8.75	21 st
Montana	\$10.30	22 nd
Michigan	\$10.33	23 rd
Ohio	\$10.45	24 th
Minnesota	\$10.85	25 th
Arkansas	\$11.00	26 th
South Dakota	\$11.20	27 th
Nevada	\$11.25	28 th
Alaska	\$11.73	29 th
Florida	\$12.00	30 th
Nebraska	\$12.00	30 th
New Mexico	\$12.00	30 th
Virginia	\$12.00	30 th
Missouri	\$12.30	34 th
Delaware	\$13.25	35 th
Vermont	\$13.67	36 th
Hawaii	\$14.00	37 th
Illinois	\$14.00	37 th
Rhode Island	\$14.00	37 th
Maine	\$14.15	40 th
Oregon	\$14.20	41 st
Arizona	\$14.35	42 nd
Colorado	\$14.42	43 rd
Maryland	\$15.00	44 th
Massachusetts	\$15.00	44 th
New York	\$15.00	44 th
New Jersey	\$15.13	47 th
Connecticut	\$15.69	48 th
California	\$16.00	49 th
Washington	\$16.28	50 th

History of Minimum Wage in Washington State

Effective date	Minimum wage per hour
January 1, 2024	\$16.28
January 1, 2023	\$15.74
January 1, 2022	\$14.49
January 1, 2021	\$13.69
January 1, 2020	\$13.50
January 1, 2019	\$12.00

These are the top 10 most expensive states to live in based on monthly costs:

- 1. Hawaii**
- 2. California**
- 3. Massachusetts**
- 4. New Jersey**
- 5. Maryland**
- 6. Washington**
- 7. New York**
- 8. Connecticut**
- 9. Colorado**
- 10. New Hampshire**

Rank	State	Total Yearly Cost of Living
1	Hawaii	\$55,491
2	Massachusetts	\$53,860
3	California	\$53,171
4	New York	\$49,623
5	New Jersey	\$49,511
6	Alaska	\$48,670
7	Maryland	\$48,235
8	Washington	\$47,231
9	Connecticut	\$46,912
10	Oregon	\$46,193
	U.S. Average	\$40,466

YEAR

COLA Increase

2024

5.9% 4.93

2023

2.01% 4.66

2022

7.51% 4.57

2021

10.1% 4.28

2020

6.73% 3.89

Service Type	FY 2023-24 Rate	FY 2024-25 Rate	
Deposition Appearance Fees – 1 st Hour	\$75	\$75	
Deposition Appearance Fees – 2 nd + Hours	\$25	\$50	
Deposition Transcript – Regular Delivery		\$4.00/page	\$5.95/page
Deposition Transcript – 5 Day Delivery		\$5.50/page	\$7.95/page
Deposition Transcript – 24 Hour Delivery		\$7.50/page	\$10.95/page
Deposition Transcript – Copies		\$0.50/page	\$2.00/page
Hearing Transcript – Regular Delivery	\$5.00/page	\$7.95/page	
Hearing Transcript – 5 Day Delivery	\$6.50/page	\$10.95/page	
Hearing Transcript – 24 Hour Delivery	\$8.50/page	\$13.95/page	
Hearing Transcript – Copies	\$0.50/page	\$2.00/page	
Transcription Recording – Page Rate*	\$3.00/page	\$6.50/page	
Transcription Recording – Listening Fee*	\$35/hour	\$50/hour	
*Whichever is Greater			

It is through the diligent and hard work of the Government Relations Committee that this long-overdue increase is now a reality for court reporters in Florida.

THIS is what your Florida Court Reporters Association has been doing for you!

Index Utah Code

Title 78A Judiciary and Judicial Administration

Chapter 2 Judicial Administration

Part 4 Court Reporter Act

Section 408 Transcripts and copies -- Fees.
(Effective 5/1/2024)

Effective 5/1/2024

78A-2-408. Transcripts and copies -- Fees.

- (1) The Judicial Council shall by rule provide for a standard page format for transcripts of court proceedings.
- (2) (a) Except as provided in Subsections (2)(c), (2)(e), and (2)(g), the base rate for a transcript of a court session, or any part of a court session, may not be more than:
 - (i) \$6.00 per page for the body of the transcript, which includes the initial preparation of the transcript and one certified copy; plus
 - (ii) \$0.50 per page for the word index.
- (b) The preparer shall:
 - (i) deposit the original text file with the clerk of the court by means of an approved electronic filing service provider; and
 - (ii) provide the person requesting the transcript with an electronic certified copy.
- (c) The cost of additional copies of the transcript shall be \$0.50 per page.
- (d) The transcript for an appeal shall be prepared within the time period permitted by the Utah Rules of Appellate Procedure.
- (e) The fee for a transcript that is guaranteed to be prepared:
 - (i) within one business day of the request shall be double the base rate;
 - (ii) within three business days of the request shall be 1.75 times the base rate;
 - (iii) within one calendar week shall be 1.5 times the base rate; and
 - (iv) within two calendar weeks shall be 1.25 times the base rate.
- (f) Payment for a transcript under this section is the responsibility of the party requesting the transcript, except for a court ordered transcript as provided in Subsection (3)(a), and the time for production of the transcript begins once financial arrangements are made with the certified court transcriber.
- (g) Child welfare cases shall be billed at the two calendar week rate to meet the deadlines of the Utah Appellate Courts.
- (3) (a) When a transcript is ordered by the court, the fees shall be paid by the parties to the action in equal proportion or as ordered by the court.
- (b) The fee for a transcript in a criminal case in which the defendant is found to be an indigent individual, as defined in Section 78B-22-102, shall be paid in accordance with Subsection 78B-22-203(3).

Federal Indigent Rate Schedule

New Original and Copy Transcript Fee Rates (Effective Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025)

Original Transcript Rates

Transcript Types	Original Rate	Increased Rate Fiscal Year 2024	Increased Rate Fiscal Year 2025
Ordinary Transcript (30-day)	\$3.65	\$4.00	\$4.40
14-Day Transcript	\$4.25	\$4.70	\$5.10
Expedited Transcript (7-day)	\$4.85	\$5.35	\$5.85
3-Day Transcript	\$5.45	\$6.00	\$6.55
Daily Transcript	\$6.05	\$6.70	\$7.30
Hourly Transcript	\$7.25	\$8.00	\$8.70
Realtime Transcript	One feed, \$3.05 per page; two-to- four feeds, \$2.10 per page; five or more feeds, \$1.50 per page.	One Feed, \$3.40; two-to-four feeds, \$2.35; five or more feeds, \$1.65.	One Feed, \$3.70; two-to-four feeds, \$2.55; five or more feeds, \$1.80.

Copy Rates

Transcript Types	First Copy	Increased First Copy Fiscal Year 2024	Increased First Copy Fiscal Year 2025	Addt'l Copy	Increased Addt'l Copy Fiscal Year 2024	Increased Addt'l Copy Fiscal Year 2025
Ordinary Transcript (30-day)	\$.90	\$1.00	\$1.10	\$.60	\$.70	\$.75
14-Day Transcript	\$.90	\$1.00	\$1.10	\$.60	\$.70	\$.75
Expedited Transcript (7-day)	\$.90	\$1.00	\$1.10	\$.60	\$.70	\$.75
3-Day Transcript	\$1.05	\$1.20	\$1.30	\$.75	\$.85	\$.90
Daily Transcript	\$1.20	\$1.35	\$1.45	\$.90	\$1.00	\$1.10
Hourly Transcript	\$1.20	\$1.35	\$1.45	\$.90	\$1.00	\$1.10
Realtime Transcript	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a